



M1647/0090
4236

Emily Berry <emilyberry@utah.gov>

Fwd: explosion on Seep Ridge Road

2 messages

April Abate <aprilabate@utah.gov>

Wed, Sep 17, 2014 at 1:37 PM

To: Emily Berry <emilyberry@utah.gov>

Cc: Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>, Doug Thornton <doug.thornton@usoilsandsinc.com>

Emily,

Can you please log this in as a citizen comment and give it a task number?

Doug,

I will need to submit a response to Ms. Cordray. Could you please send me a response from USOS? Perhaps your blasting protocol?

Thank you!
April

P.S. For clarification, I did not advise Raphael to file a complaint with MSHA. I informed her that we do not regulate blasting; but referred her to MSHA as the agency that may have jurisdiction.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Raphael Cordray** <crphaelc@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Sep 17, 2014 at 1:28 PM

Subject: explosion on Seep Ridge Road

To: Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>, April Abate <aprilabate@utah.gov>

Explosion at PR Springs utah

On Friday September 12 2014 I was riding a bicycle on seep ridge going south toward PR Springs I saw no posted closure of the road and I saw several vehicles pass me travelling south on this public road. Around 4:40pm I heard a loud explosion and saw a dust and debris cloud at the usos mine construction site. I was given no verbal warning of blasting in the area. I saw other recreational vehicles and hunters also on the road. This is a public safety hazard. I was riding toward the blasting area and if I had been 15 minutes earlier I would have been very close. I saw debris and rocks on the road after the blast.

I made a complaint to MSHA on April's advice. I do want to notify this office because I feel that I was placed in unnecessary danger and I feel that Utah should be protecting their citizens who are recreating near SITLA leases.

Raphael Cordray

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April A. Abate

Environmental Scientist III

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining

O: 801-538-5214

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Hours M-Th 7-5

Doug Thornton <doug.thornton@usoilsandsinc.com>

Thu, Sep 18, 2014 at 8:28 AM

To: April Abate <aprilabate@utah.gov>, Emily Berry <emilyberry@utah.gov>

Cc: Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>, Barclay Cuthbert <barclay.cuthbert@usoilsandsinc.com>

April,

As mentioned over the phone, blasting procedures were reviewed with our contractor days before the scheduled blast on Friday, Sept. 12th. All procedures and explosive handling strictly followed MSHA and ATF standards. We do not anticipate needing to use explosives much for our mining practices, but if needed, our contractors are licensed and experienced. We have several witnesses who can testify that the blast area was appropriately cleared, the public road was sufficiently blocked and by no means was anyone in danger before, during or after the blast. Our commitment to the public and to our employees has always been focused on a world-class health, safety, environmental compliance operation. We would be happy to discuss our process and this focus with Raphael or anyone else who is desirous to know.

Thanks,

Doug Thornton

HSE & Regulatory Manager

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170 South Main

Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

(801) 231-3114

doug.thornton@usoilsandsinc.com

From: April Abate [mailto:aprilabate@utah.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 1:37 PM

To: Emily Berry